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PASS TO DEP. ASST. SECY. GEORGE A DALLEY

FOLLOWING REPEAT VIENNA 5848 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUN,
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FOLLOWING IS FROM USDEL TO SUBJECT PREPCOM

SUBJECT: PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF
THE UN DECADE FOR WOMEN

SUMMARY: THE FIRST MEETINGS OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
PROCEEDED ACCORDING TO PLANS MADE EARLIER IN NEW YORK, WITH
SELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN FROM THE AFRICAN GROUP AND ADOPT-
TION OF PREPCOM AGENDA ACCORDING TO A PREVIOUSLY AGREED
OUTLINE. THE SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS OF THE FIRST WEEK WERE
TAKEN UP WITH A GENERAL DEBATE COVERING THE WHOLE RANGE OF
THE AGENDA, WITH MORNING SESSIONS DEVOTED TO PLENARY MEET-
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INGS AND AFTERNOONS USED FOR INFORMAL SESSIONS OF A
WORKING GROUP OF THE WHOLE TO ATTEMPT TO REACH AGREEMENTS
OF SPECIFIC ITEMS. AT THE FRIDAY SESSION, THE PREPCOM
DECIDED TO APPOINT A DRAFTING GROUP OF FIVE TO BEGIN WORK
ON THE BASIC DOCUMENT WHICH WILL CONTAIN THE PREPCOM
RECOMMENDATIONS. WHILE NO MAJOR POLITICAL PROBLEMS APPEAR
TO BE DEVELOPING, THERE ARE LISTED BELOW SOME POINTS ON

WHICH THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO COMMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

ELECTIONS WERE DELAYED FOR ONE DAY DUE TO LATE ARRIVAL OF SEVERAL DEVELOPING COUNTRY DELEGATIONS, BUT PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY THE NEXT DAY WITH ELECTION OF THE FOLLOWING:

CHAIRMAN: LENA GUEYE - SENEGAL

VICE CHAIRMAN: HELGA HORZ - GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

-- FRITZ SCHLINGEMANN - NETHERLANDS

-- VERONICA PENALEVER DE LEPAGE - VENEZUELA

RAPPORTEUR: SOHEYLA SHAHKAR - IRAN

2. PREPCOM AGENDA

THE PREPCOM ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING AGENDA, WHICH WAS PREVIOUSLY AGREED IN NEW YORK:

- 1) ELECTION OF OFFICERS
 - 2) ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
 - 3) PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE OF 1980
 - (A) PROVISIONAL AGENDA
 - (B) ORGANIZATION OF WORK
 - (C) DOCUMENTATION
 - (D) PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE
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- (E) SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE
- (F) RULES OF PROCEDURE
- (G) PUBLICITY FOR THE CONFERENCE
- 4) PREPARATORY MEETINGS (REGIONAL, SECTORAL AND OTHER MEETINGS)
- 5) OTHER ACTIVITIES CONNECTED WITH THE CONFERENCE, INCLUDING INPUTS BY NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
- 6) PROGRAMME OF FUTURE WORK
- 7) ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

3. GENERAL DEBATE

A. AGENDA

THE COMMITTEE SPENT THE MAJORITY OF ITS TIME THE FIRST WEEK DEBATING THE PROPOSED AGENDA FOR THE CONFERENCE. WHILE NO AGREEMENT HAS YET BEEN REACHED, IT IS AT LEAST CLEAR THAT THE PREPCOM HAS REJECTED FOR THE MOMENT THE INSERTION OF EASTERN EUROPEAN-INSPIRED POLITICAL ITEMS ON THE BASIC AGENDA. THE GDR DELEGATION PROPOSED AT THIS SESSION A SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM PERTAINING TO THE DRAFT DECLARATION ON WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE

AND SECURITY AND TO THE STRUGGLE AGAINST RACISM, ETC. AS THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER OR NOT IT WILL UNDERTAKE SUCH A DRAFT, MANY NON-ALIGNED DELEGATIONS JOINED WITH WESTERN DELEGATES IN SUGGESTING THAT IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO INCLUDE THIS DECLARATION ON THE CONFERENCE AGENDA SINCE ITS FUTURE IS STILL UNDER DISCUSSION IN THE COMMISSION.

B. WESTERN DELEGATES, JOINED BY INDIA, ARE CONTINUING TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SUB-THEMES EDUCATION, HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT AS DECIDED IN ECOSOC RES. 1978/32 WHICH ARE BEING GIVEN LESSER PROMINENCE THAN DESIRED IN THE DISCUSSIONS SO FAR.

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C. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

SUGGESTION BY IRAN AND OTHERS THAT THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY A PLENARY AND ONE MAIN COMMITTEE. SUPPORT FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF COMMITTEES IS BASED ON A DESIRE TO AVOID CREATING A COMMITTEE WHICH CAN BE DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO POLITICAL ISSUES AND BECOME A VEHICLE FOR INTRODUCTION OF EXTRANEIOUS POLITICAL ISSUES.

D. PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE

THE QUESTION OF NGO PARTICIPATION HAS BEEN DEBATED AT LENGTH WITH THE U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN DELEGATIONS SUPPORTING DIRECT PARTICIPATION OF NGO'S, BOTH THOSE IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH ECOSOC AND THOSE OUTSIDE THE UN SYSTEM. THIS IS AN OPTIMUM ARRANGEMENT AND HAS LITTLE CHANCE OF BEING ACCEPTED. THE HOST GOVERNMENT, IRAN, HAS MADE CLEAR THAT THEY CANNOT PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR A TRIBUNAL AND DO NOT WANT ANY PARTICIPATION BY NGO'S. MOST OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRY DELEGATES SUPPORT SOME KIND OF DIRECT PARTICIPATION BY NGO'S, AS DO THE EASTERN EUROPEANS. THIS SURPRISING EASTERN EUROPEAN AND NONALIGNED SUPPORT FOR SOME KIND OF DIRECT PARTICIPATION IS BASED ON STRONG OBJECTIONS AND OPPOSITION TO HOLDING OF A TRIBUNAL SIMILAR TO THE ONE HELD IN MEXICO CITY WHICH MANY DELEGATIONS CONTINUE TO DENOUNCE IN THE HARSHTEST POSSIBLE TERMS. WE WISH, IF POSSIBLE, TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS NEW-FOUND OPEN ATTITUDE TOWARD NGO PARTICIPATION, BUT DO NOT WISH AT THIS TIME TO MAKE ANY DECISIONS WHICH WOULD LIMIT NGO PARTICIPATION TO ONLY WRITTEN STATEMENTS OR TO ATTENDANCE AT THE CONFERENCE BY ONLY A SMALL NUMBER OF NGO'S.

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E. SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE

WHILE IT HAS BEEN GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE FROM OUTSIDE THE UN SYSTEM (IN ORDER TO AVOID HAVING THE SAME SECRETARY-GENERAL AS FOR THE 1975 CONFERENCE - HELVI SIPILA), SOME DELEGATIONS INSIST ON STIPULATING THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SHOULD COME FROM A DEVELOPING COUNTRY. EVEN THOUGH WE PRIVATELY SUPPORT THE CANDIDACY OF LUCILLE MAIR OF JAMAICA, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE, AND HAVE NO OBJECTION TO A SECRETARY GENERAL FROM A DEVELOPING COUNTRY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT COMMENT ON THE DESIRABILITY OF ACCEPTING RESTRICTIVE LANGUAGE PERTAINING TO THE ORIGINS OF THE CHAIRMAN. IF SUCH RESTRICTIVE

LANGUAGE IS NOT ACCEPTABLE, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT A FORMULA WHEREBY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE IS CHOSEN BY THE SYG IN CONSULTATION WITH REGIONAL GROUPS, OR SOME OTHER PREVIOUSLY-USED FORMULA.

F. PREPARATORY MEETINGS

USDEL HAS EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF REGIONAL PREPARATION AND THE NECESSITY FOR MAKING ADEQUATE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THESE MEETINGS FROM THE UN REGULAR BUDGET.
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